

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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question?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, Mr. President.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: You may have clarified this, but this goes back...this is an increase in salary from the 96 base of 4.5 percent. Is that right? Did you clarify that?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: It's an increase of 4.5 percent from the existing base, yes. You're saying "96" is what causes me to ask...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: It's the last time we did it.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, the last time, yes.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That's what I'm trying.... This is every four years where we attempt to catch up in the law for the Supreme Court. And I wanted to make clear to the body that this A bill is additional spending, it is not in the budget or in the status. And that this will represent the A bill line, so to speak, allowed for appropriations. It is deserving. We try to keep our Supreme Court judges salaries in line with...in line with what Senator Brashear has said. I want you to understand that it does represent a significant increase in terms of total dollars, and that is another decision you'll have to make in your decision of setting priorities, as to whether we should have a strong Supreme Court, a strong justice system, in terms of salaries. That's really all I intended to do, to explain to the body that this does add to the base. I'm...I have...I'm trying to confirm, but I'm sure the Governor does not have it in his budget, for example, simply a matter of education. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Chair recognizes Senator Chambers for discussion on LB 350.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, once again I have to thank Senator Wehrbein for keeping us apprised of the significance of some of these bills as far as the budget. But, because there are some things which I believe have a higher priority, we should begin to prioritize at this